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## 7. THE BLUETAILED BEE-EATER *MEROPS PHILIPPINUS* LINNAEUS, NESTING IN CEYLON

You will be interested to hear that I have recently established that the Bluetailed Bee-eater, *Merops philippinus* Linnaeus, nests in Ceylon.

I found a single pair at Kumana, in the Eastern Province, nesting in a sandy slope leading down to an estuary, during Easter 1962. I think that these birds were incubating as I saw one of the birds enter the hole and stay within for about 3 minutes only possibly feeding the mate. If young were being fed the visits would have been more frequent and regular.

Again, a fortnight later, I came upon some of these birds further north up the same coast obviously feeding young. They were catching flies over the sea and returning very regularly to the nest at intervals of about 5 minutes. Unfortunately, I could not get to where they had their nests as this was on the other side of a river over which I had no means of crossing.

PINGARAWA,  
NAMUNUKULA,  
CEYLON,  
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